

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, claims 1-11 of the Amended Sheets of the International Preliminary Examination Report completed June 3, 2004, have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies, to replace the words "characterized in that" with the word "wherein", and to make minor editorial changes..

The title has been amended to conform to the English language translation.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the title and the claims as amended.


Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: February 2, 2005

By:  Reg. NO. 35,333
Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32,858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of clamping a rotationally symmetrical body for the purpose of machining, in which method the body (10), with its first side (12), is pulled by means of a tensile force (F1), which acts in extension of the rotation axis (19, 19') of the body (10) on the first side (12) of the body (10), against a supporting element (72) having a centering effect, characterized in that the supporting element (72) is acted upon with a spring force (F2) which is opposed to the tensile force (F1), the spring force (F2) is slightly smaller than the tensile force (F1) and is proportioned in such a way that, when the body (10) strikes the supporting element (72), the supporting element (72) first of all yields in the axial direction.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the tensile force (F1) is transmitted to the body (10) by means of a tie rod (64), which is preferably connected to the body (10) by means of a quick-action coupling (20, 40, 46).
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the tie rod (64) is guided with radial clearance (66) axially and concentrically to the rotation axis (19, 19') of the rotationally symmetrical body (10).

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the body (10), with a centering region (28) which is arranged at an axial distance from the first side (12) of the body (10) and is oriented in the same direction as the first side (12), is pulled against a centering device (76).

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that spring force (F2), tensile force (F1) and configuration of supporting element (72) are selected in accordance with the body (10) to be clamped.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, when a rotor (30) is clamped as a rotationally symmetrical body (10) which preferably has integrally formed moving blades (34), a centering device (76) is selected which has centering surfaces (82) engaging between the moving blades (34) in a finger-like manner.

7. A device for clamping a rotationally symmetrical body (10) for the purpose of machining, having a tie rod (64) which is mounted in the device (50) in such a way that it can act on the body (10), to be clamped, axially and concentrically to the rotation axis (19, 19') of the latter and is axially guided with radial clearance (66) for the axial pulling movement, the tensile force (F1) of the tie rod (64) preferably being adjustable, and having a supporting element (72), against which the rotationally symmetrical body (10) to be clamped can be pulled by means of the tie rod (64), characterized in that the supporting element (72) is supported in a spring-loaded manner on a stop (60) of the device (50) in such a way that it is movable in the axial direction (19, 19') of the body (10) to be clamped, the spring force (F2) counteracting the tensile force (F1) and preferably being adjustable.

8. The device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the tie rod (64) is provided with a coupling device (63) which can be connected to a coupling unit (18) of the body (10) to be clamped and is preferably
5 designed as the one half of a quick-action coupling (20, 40, 46).

9. The device as claimed in either of claims 7 or 8, characterized in that the supporting element (72) is
10 provided with supporting surfaces (73) which are arranged concentrically to the rotation axis (19, 19') of the body (10) to be clamped and which are preferably inclined toward the rotation axis (19, 19') and/or are contiguous along a defined circumference and form an
15 annular supporting surface.

10. The device according to one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that a centering device (76) is provided at an axial distance from the supporting
20 element (72), this centering device (76) being provided with centering surfaces (82) which are arranged concentrically to the rotation axis (19, 19') of the body (10) to be clamped and are preferably inclined toward the rotation axis (19, 19').

25 11. The device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the centering surfaces (82) are distributed uniformly over the circumference and extend in a finger-like manner toward the rotation axis (19, 19')
30 from a defined outer circumference up to a defined inner circumference and/or are contiguous in particular along a defined circumference and form an annular centering surface.